

NOTE ON MICHAUX'S *VACCINIUM MYRTILLOIDES*.

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THE name *Vaccinium myrtilloides*, first published by Michaux for a common blueberry of eastern Canada and the Hudson Bay region, has been variously interpreted. Recently, however, it has rested as a synonym either of *V. pennsylvanicum* Lam. or its var. *angustifolium* (Ait.) Gray, plants to which it has its closest affinity.

Of the common blue-fruited *V. pennsylvanicum* there are three pronounced tendencies. The typical form of the species, the shrub of the eastern United States and of portions of Canada, has the twigs glabrous or at most a little pilose at tip and the leaves glabrous beneath. The dwarf shrub, ordinarily confined to our alpine or colder regions, differs only in its reduced stature and tiny narrow leaves and is var. *angustifolium* (Ait.) Gray (*V. angustifolium* Ait. Hort. Kew. ii. 11). The third extreme is nearly if not quite as pubescent as *V. canadense*, differing from that species in its lustrous leaves with spinulose margins, as in the typical glabrous or glabrate *V. pennsylvanicum*.

The very pubescent extreme of *V. pennsylvanicum* is the common representative of the species in many sections of eastern Canada and it occurs in characteristic development from Labrador to Hudson Bay, south to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and northern Maine, and locally to Massachusetts. Throughout this region, as already stated, the shrub is usually mistaken for *V. canadense*; but it has the foliage-characters and the earlier sweeter berries of *V. pennsylvanicum*, and is very clearly the shrub described by Michaux as *V. myrtilloides*. Michaux's specimen, now preserved at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, was over ripe and each of the two seemingly lateral clusters has lost all but a single berry. The branch shows clearly, however, that other berries had been present. The specimen was examined by the writer in 1903, and a tracing and note made by Dr. Robinson in 1900 bear out the decision that Michaux's plant described "foliis angusto-lanceolatis, integris, subtus juxta nervos et margine pubescentibus, membranaceis: *Bluets* Canadensium. *Hab.* a Canada ad sinum *Hudsonis*"¹ is the common pubescent extreme of *V. pennsylvanicum* and that it should not be longer confused with the

Michx. Fl. i. 234 (1803).

glabrous *V. pennsylvanicum* and its equally glabrous var. *angustifolium* but should be given varietal recognition as

VACCINIUM PENNSYLVANICUM Lam., var. **myrtilloides** (Michx.) n. comb. *V. myrtilloides* Michx. Fl. i. 234 (1803).

GRAY HERBARIUM.

DRABA AUREA IN RIMOUSKI COUNTY, QUEBEC.— In RHODORA vii. 267 (1905) I reported as *Draba borealis* DC. a plant found in fruit on seacliffs at Bic, Rimouski County, Quebec. Subsequently I have been able to examine the Bic plant at several stations and to secure excellent flowering material. The petals prove to be, not white as in *D. borealis* to which the plant was originally referred, but golden yellow, in this character differing strikingly from the other species of *Draba* known from the lower St. Lawrence. The Bic plant when well developed is by far the largest species of the genus in eastern America, the luxuriant plants producing as many as fifty fruiting branches, the thick and very brittle leaves being 1.5–2 cm. broad, and the mature pods 1.2–1.8 cm. long. Although these luxuriant specimens are much larger and have broader leaves than most herbarium specimens of *D. aurea* Vahl, smaller individuals are apparently identical with that polar species. As noted in the original report of the Bic plant (as *D. borealis*) the juicy leaves and young tips are freely eaten by the Herring Gulls which nest on the limestone rocks at Bic where *Draba aurea* abounds.— M. L. FERNALD, Gray Herbarium.

A NEW STATION FOR HIERACIUM PRATENSE.— For the last three or four years I have noticed a Hieracium of rather unfamiliar appearance growing in a field near Norwood Cove, at Southwest Harbor, Mount Desert Island, Maine. This year I found plants of the same species in several other fields, not only in the neighborhood, but near Western Mountain and near Beech Hill. On examination it proves to be *H. pratense* Tausch, an introduced plant of very limited range in this country. It has been reported by Mr. Emile F. Williams as occurring at Van Buren, Maine, (RHODORA, III. 36), but I think not elsewhere in New England.— SAM A. LURVEY, Southwest Harbor, Maine.

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